

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1912.

## LORD ROBERTS' MOMENTOUS WARNING.

In a recent issue reference was made to the conviction held in the Mother Country by naval experts and men of national reputation in Imperial Defence that the fighting strength of the British Navy should be increased without delay. Lord Roberts was mentioned as holding this opinion. Speaking at Manchester on Tuesday, as reported elsewhere in this issue, he sounded a warning note in a review of the naval situation which is of deep significance. It is not necessary here to refer in detail to Lord Roberts' brilliant military record or to the fact that he was Commander-in-Chief of the British Army from 1901 to 1904. He is no alarmist and his reputation is an assurance that he would not give an opinion without mature thought and a thorough knowledge of the subject on which he speaks.

To arm chair critics who profess to believe that there is no German menace, Lord Roberts' statement provides an answer which they will do well to heed. When he declares that "war will take place the instant the German forces by land and sea are by their superiority at every point, as certain of victory as anything in human calculation can be made certain," he emphasizes Mr. Churchill's statement, made some months ago, that Great Britain's "average moment" of preparedness must equal Germany's "selected moment." It remains with the Mother Country and the Sister Dominions to see to it that the "selected moment" for which Germany is preparing and waiting is indefinitely postponed. This is no impossible task. It means co-operation and unity of purpose to maintain the Empire's supremacy on the sea. It means for Canadians an acceptance of the recommendation which it is now generally understood Mr. Borden will submit to Parliament, for an emergency contribution to materially strengthen the British Fleet.

Lord Roberts refers to the policy of aggression which Germany has pursued during the last ten years and to the fact that she has now attained the position of "the greatest naval power save one, upon the globe." The importance of protecting the trade routes for the commerce of the Empire is included in this reference when he states that "today every British warship and every British merchant vessel thrills in all her nerves to that mighty presence." When it is recalled that the United Kingdom never has more than about a month's food supply for the population and is dependent on the overseas markets for the vital necessity of protecting the trade routes will be fully understood.

There is no mincing of words in Lord Roberts' statement. He maintains that the superiority of the Navy has declined. "We have lost command," he says, "of every sea but one—the North Sea—and our supremacy over that sea is now a matter of debate." Confirmation of this view is to be found in the recent order issued by the Admiralty transferring the eight battleships to the Mediterranean to protect British interests during the war. The supreme importance of concentrating the most powerful fleet available in the North Sea compelled the Admiralty early this year to practically abandon the Mediterranean which was formerly patrolled by a strong fleet.

"We have a fleet," declares Lord Roberts, "but that fleet is rapidly becoming unequal to the fleets by which we may be opposed." No stronger argument could be presented in support of an emergency contribution not only by Canada but by the other Dominions. Unless unlooked for complications should arise from the Balkan conflict there is no prospect of a war in which Great Britain will be engaged in the immediate future. Germany's "selected moment" has not yet arrived. The situation emphasizes the need of strengthening the British Fleet against future contingencies. In the words of Lord Roberts' warning message "Germany always advances, and the line along which she is moving is now most manifest; it is towards complete superiority by land and sea." That, concisely expressed, is the meaning of the German menace, which the Nations comprising the British Empire are called upon to meet.

## THE FEEBLE MINDED.

An instructive summary of the operations of a clearing house for dealing with the records of mentally defective persons, which was opened in New York on Monday, is given by the Toronto News. The work is being conducted in connection with the Department of Public Charities. The clearing house, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the various institutions for children, the Children's Court, the Department of Immigration, the Board of Education, the different State institutions, the Department of Health, and from dispensaries and social workers. The records of every case will be studied by doctors who specialize in such work. Family histories will be traced. When all possible information has been obtained, advice will be given for the treatment of each case.

This is the first attempt to classify and control all the weak minded persons in a city, and possibly to cure a large number of them. It is a stupendous piece of work and one which will be watched with the keenest interest by all students of social problems. The theory that most criminals, law breakers, immoral persons and unemployables are mentally deficient is being widely accepted. Can we develop the weak mind and make it strong as we can strengthen baby muscles? Can we correct deformity of the brain as we can cure certain physical deformities? These questions will be answered in the course of a few years by the clearing house in New York. If this new venture receives the measure of public sympathy and support to which it is entitled.

Special classes for backward children are to be held, the News says, in many of the Public Schools in Toronto. Every school teacher will be anxious to send unintelligent children from his class to the special rooms. Therefore the authorities will have a complete record of children attending school who can be suspected of being mentally defective. The News makes the pertinent suggestion that small bureaus of the type just started in New York might be established with advantage so as to trace the records and watch the development of these children. The suggestion is worthy the attention of every large city. Each child, as the News says, is a potential danger to himself and to society. But a child of the mind can be corrected by careful training, each one may be developed into a useful citizen. This problem lies at the base of the social structure. Also it is at the base of the problem of criminology.

## A FIRE PREVENTION DAY.

To the many "days" which the people of the United States are from time to time called upon to observe, Mr. Dix, the Governor of New York, recently added a "State Fire Prevention Day." The idea is new and the purpose educative. It will be appreciated in other communities than that to which Governor Dix has addressed his proclamation. The facts advanced are of a character to compel attention from any who have given thought to the subject of the conservation.

The fire losses and cost of fire prevention in the United States, he says, amount annually to \$480,000,000 or more than the annual production of silver, gold, copper and petroleum each year. The equivalent of a \$5,000 home is destroyed every ten minutes. In one year 1,449 persons lost their lives and 5,654 were injured in fires. There have been wars far less costly as regards the loss of money and not notably more costly in the matter of the loss of life. It is added, and with fair justification it can be believed, that at least 65 per cent. of the fires behind this great waste are caused by carelessness or ignorance. The purpose of proclaiming a "Fire Prevention Day" is to rouse people to a sense of fire dangers and induce them to take a more active interest in the subject.

The mode of observance suggested is the general cleaning up and removal of rubbish, trash, and waste, and a setting in order of heating apparatus and chimneys. It is also suggested that public and private institutions, hotels, asylums, factories and theatres, should be examined and when necessary improvements and changes be made; that local authorities give attention to the matter of building regulations, fire protection and prevention as well as adequate provision for apparatus for fire fighting; and, lastly, that fire drills be held in institutions, factories and schools, and that teachers should instruct pupils through talks on the danger of fires and means of preventing them.

Those who follow the story of the world's doings as told in the newspapers will not need to think long to appreciate how apt such suggestions are. Fire Prevention Day will probably be something like Arbor Day. Some people will think it is a good thing and forget about it. Many will be led, however, to be more careful as to conditions and safety of their property, and the movement will spread with beneficial results.—Ex.

## MR. BORDEN'S POSITION.

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)  
If Mr. Borden brings down to Parliament next month a measure proposing an emergency contribution to the Imperial Navy he will support it by an authoritative statement from the Government of the British Empire. Such a statement will be accepted by the people of Canada as the best evidence in the case that can be produced. Should the emergency be shown to exist, as it surely will be, if Mr. Borden asks for the vote, there is no question that the contribution will be endorsed by the vast majority of the people of Canada.

Mr. Borden can well afford to stand or fall by the loyal action that he proposes. He may lose certain of his colleagues. He may be a target for the attacks of his enemies. But he will have secured the support of the vast majority of the people of Canada, and the English-speaking people only, will stand by him.

## Current Comment

Dry Farming Congress.  
That the successful prosecution of dry farming is of tremendous interest both to Canada and the United States is made evident by the great tracts of arid and semi-arid land in both countries and the advantage which would be derived by making them productive. Nor is there any part of this Dominion perhaps which would gain more from the adoption of the scientific methods now being pursued under the system of dry farming than British Columbia. Great areas of land in the most delightful parts, climatically, of the upper country have hitherto been avoided by incoming settlers because of their semi-arid features. With increased knowledge of the scientific principles to be employed in making these areas productive this Province will add largely to her agricultural possibilities.

Various Opinions.  
(Boston Post.)  
There is a little similarity in all this political talk. President Taft says the fight is between the Republican party and the Democratic. Roosevelt says the Republicans and Democrats are combined against the Progressives. Debs says Progressives, Republicans, and Democrats are all of a kind, and that the fight is between him and the field. And now comes Candidate Reimer of the diminutive Socialist-Labor party, and insists that Democrats, Republicans, Progressives and Socialist party men are all politicians, and that the true fight is between him and the field. Psychologically, it is a good thing to have your enemies bunched. Unfortunately, merely saying so will not bring them together.

Motor Car Legislation.  
(Victoria Colonist.)  
In France motor accidents have become so common that the rigid examination of all persons proposing to drive a car is insisted on, and no one may drive without a license. In the event of two summonses being issued for a violation of the law in the year against a driver, his license is cancelled, if he has been found guilty, and is not renewed until after a re-examination. A suggestion has been made that the temporary forfeiture of the car and prohibition to drive any other car during the term of forfeiture might be made a penalty in cases of extreme recklessness.

Sentiment Versus Duty.  
(Edmonton Journal.)  
Genuine peace sentiment is to be encouraged on all possible occasions. The horrors of actual warfare cannot be overdrawn and everything possible should be done to avoid them. But no nation has yet undertaken to proceed as if there were no danger of it being attacked and Canada cannot afford to be the first. All this talk about militarism should not deter us from our plain duty.

A Problem.  
(Toronto Mail and Empire.)  
What is this war to be called—the Turkish-Balkan war or the Balko-Turkish war? It is no unimportant matter, either, for tradition hath it that the combatant whose name forms the first of the combination is predestined to defeat. There are such instances as the Russo-Turkish war, Spanish-American war, the Franco-Prussian war, and the Russo-Japanese war.

An Encouraging Sign.  
(Ottawa Free Press.)  
This year's football fashions dictate that the players pay more attention to their opponents' legs and shins and less to severing ears and extracting eyes. So encouraging is this sign that even football may be settled in the arbitration courts before long.

A Guardian of the Peace.  
(Greenwood Ledger.)  
Our Mayor has bought a bulldog, and in future peace will reign supreme in the copper metropolis.

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Beef, country	0.08 @ 0.09
Beef, western	0.09 @ 0.11
Beef, butchers	0.09 @ 0.12
Mutton, per lb.	0.07 @ 0.08
Pork, per lb.	0.08 @ 0.10
Spring lamb	0.10 @ 0.11
Veal, per lb.	0.09 @ 0.11
Eggs, hen	0.30 @ 0.32
Butter, per lb.	0.28 @ 0.30
Roll butter, per lb.	0.28 @ 0.30
Creamery butter	0.30 @ 0.32
New carrots, per bbl	0.50 @ 0.55
Powd, per lb.	0.09 @ 0.11
Chicken, per lb.	0.20 @ 0.22
Ham	0.10 @ 0.12
Beef, per lb.	0.09 @ 0.11
Powd, per lb.	0.09 @ 0.11
Powd, per pair	0.00 @ 0.00
Spring chickens	1.00 @ 1.25
Turnips, per bbl	0.85 @ 0.90
Lettuce, per doz.	0.40 @ 0.50
Celery, per doz.	0.00 @ 0.00
Cabbage, per doz.	0.40 @ 0.50
Carrots, per doz.	0.00 @ 0.00
Squash	0.00 @ 0.02
Pumpkins	0.00 @ 0.01
New potatoes, per bbl	1.25 @ 1.35

FRUITS, ETC.	
New Walnuts	0.12 @ 0.14
Greenish walnuts	0.14 @ 0.15
Almonds	0.11 @ 0.12
Almonds	0.11 @ 0.12
California prunes	0.05 @ 0.10
Pistachios	0.12 @ 0.13
Brazil	0.12 @ 0.14
New dates, per lb.	0.08 @ 0.07
Peanuts, roasted	0.10 @ 0.12
Butter, per lb.	0.05 @ 0.06
Lemons, Messina, bx 600	7.50 @ 7.60
Cocoanuts, per doz.	0.60 @ 0.70
Cocoanuts, per sack	3.75 @ 4.25
Bananas	1.20 @ 1.50
Val. onions, case	2.50 @ 2.75
Canadian onions	0.00 @ 0.15
American onions, ca 175	2.00 @ 2.20

PROVISIONS.	
Pork Am. mess	0.00 @ 0.25
Pork, Domes, mess	0.00 @ 0.25
Pork, Am. clear	0.00 @ 0.25
Am. plate beef	0.00 @ 0.25
Lard, pure, tub	0.10 @ 0.17
Lard, comp. bbl	0.00 @ 0.11

FLOUR, ETC.	
Standard roller	5.75 @ 6.00
Standard oatmeal	6.50 @ 6.75
Manitoba high grade	6.55 @ 6.75
Ontario full patent	6.10 @ 6.20

CANNED GOODS.	
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Chickens	0.00 @ 0.00
Spring fish	7.50 @ 8.00
Rippered herring	4.25 @ 4.40
Butter, per lb.	0.05 @ 0.06
Oysters, 1st	1.25 @ 1.40
Oysters, 2d	1.25 @ 1.40
Corned beef, 1st	2.25 @ 2.35
Corned beef, 2d	2.25 @ 2.35
Peaches, 2d	1.00 @ 1.25
Peaches, 1st	1.00 @ 1.25
Pineapples, sliced	1.50 @ 1.85
Pineapples, whole	1.50 @ 1.85
Singapore Pineapples	1.75 @ 1.80
Longford Plums	1.10 @ 1.15
Raspberries	1.85 @ 1.87
Corn, per doz.	0.00 @ 0.10
Peas, 1st	1.25 @ 1.35
Strawberries	1.25 @ 1.35
Tomatoes	1.75 @ 1.75
Pumpkins	1.00 @ 1.05
String Beans	1.10 @ 1.25
Baked Beans	1.00 @ 1.25

GROCERIES.	
Choice seed, raising	0.09 @ 0.09
Fancy do	0.08 @ 0.09
Malaga clusters	2.25 @ 3.00
Currants, clean	0.05 @ 0.09
Cheese, per lb	0.15 @ 0.15
Rice, per lb	0.03 @ 0.03
Cm tartar, pure	0.22 @ 0.25
Heard soda, per keg	2.10 @ 2.20
Molasses, fancy Bar	0.37 @ 0.40
Beans, hand picked	3.20 @ 3.30
Yellow eye	0.90 @ 0.95
Split peas	0.60 @ 0.75
Pot barley	0.00 @ 0.00
Gran. cornmeal	3.70 @ 3.80
Spring Beans	1.10 @ 1.25
Baked Beans	1.00 @ 1.25
Liverpool salt, per sack, ex store	0.70 @ 0.80

SUGARS.	
Standard gran	4.90 @ 5.00
United Empire gran	4.80 @ 4.90
Bright yellow	0.00 @ 0.00
No. 1 yellow	4.50 @ 4.60
Paris lumps	0.00 @ 0.05

FISH.	
Large dry cod	0.00 @ 0.15
Medium dry cod	0.00 @ 0.10
Small dry cod	0.00 @ 0.05
Pollock	0.00 @ 0.05
Beef, per lb.	0.00 @ 0.05
Fresh cod, per lb.	0.02 @ 0.03
Blotlers, per box	0.75 @ 0.85
Haddock	0.00 @ 0.10
Kip'd herr, per box	0.00 @ 0.00
Finan haddies	0.05 @ 0.06
Kip'd herr, per box	0.30 @ 0.00

GRAINS.	
Middlings car lots	30.00 @ 31.00
Mid. sm. lts bgs	30.00 @ 31.00
Bras, ton lots bags	25.00 @ 28.00
Cornmeal in bags	1.75 @ 1.85

OILS.	
Pratt's Astral	0.00 @ 0.20
White Rose Ches.	0.00 @ 0.17
Silver	0.17 @ 0.17
Insseed oil, boiled	0.00 @ 0.08
Insseed oil, raw	0.00 @ 0.83
Turpentine	0.00 @ 0.58
Motor gasoline	0.00 @ 0.24

HIDES, SKINS, WOOL, ETC.	
Beed hides, per lb	0.11 @ 0.12
Calf skins	0.17 @ 0.18
Lamb skins	0.40 @ 0.60
Wool, unwashed	0.13 @ 0.14

HAY AND OATS.	
Hay, carload, pr ton	14.00 @ 16.00
Oats, car'd per bus	0.52 @ 0.52
Oats, per bushel	0.55 @ 0.58

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